

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Amended): {1} A gas generator [(30)] comprising:

a metal housing [(3)] constituted by an initiator shell [(1)] and a closure shell[(2)],

a combustion chamber [(5)] which is formed inside the housing [(3)] and into which gas generants [(4)] generating a high-temperature gas through combustion are loaded,

a filter member [(6)] disposed around the combustion chamber[(5)],

an igniter [(7)] mounted into the housing [(3)] and igniting and burning the gas generants [(4)] inside the combustion chamber [(5)], and

a plurality of gas discharge openings [(8a, 8b)] formed on the housing [(3)] and discharging the gas generated in the combustion chamber[(5)], wherein either or both of the initiator shell [(1)] and the closure shell [(2)] constituting the housing [(3)] are provided with semi-spherical or semi-oval end plate portions [(14, 10)] and cylindrical portions [(13, 9)] having a diameter D continuously formed from [(these)] said end plate portions (14, 10), ~~H/D of a ratio~~, a ratio H/D of the bottom distance H between the end plate portion [(14)] of the initiator shell [(1)] and that [(10)] of the closure shell [(2)] to the diameter D of the cylindrical portions [(13, 9)] is in the range from 0.4 to 1.3, and a ratio A/At ~~and (A/At) which is a ratio~~ of [(the)] a total sum (A) of [(the)] surface areas of gas generants [(4)] to the total sum (At) of the opening areas of the gas discharge openings [(8a, 8b)] is in excess of 1300 and not more than 2000,

wherein the gas discharge openings have first and second opening diameters (D1, D2) and are disposed in two arrays in a zigzag form, the first opening diameter (D1) being smaller than the second opening diameter D2, and

wherein a relation of a distance d between gas discharge openings in an axial direction of the housing, the first opening diameter (D1), and the second opening diameter (D2) is represented by $d \geq (D1 + D2)/2$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): {2} A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein the gas discharge openings (8a, 8b) ~~are available in~~ comprise two or more opening diameters.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): {3} A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein the gas discharge openings (8a, 8b) are disposed in a single array or in a plurality of arrays.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): {4} A gas generator according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the gas discharge openings (8a, 8b) are available in two opening diameters (large and small) and disposed in two arrays in a zigzag form, and D1/D2 which is a ratio of a small opening diameter D1 of the gas discharge opening to a large opening diameter D2 of the gas discharge opening~~ a ratio D1/D2 is in [[the]] a range of from 0.1 to 1.0.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): {6} A gas generator according to Claim 1, which comprises a rupture member wherein the gas discharge openings (8a, 8b) are closed by [[a]] said rupture member [(11)] and [[the]] said rupture member (11) comprises a metal plate made of aluminum, steel or stainless steel.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~{7}~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein
[[the]] said rupture member ~~[(11)]~~ is in [[the]] a range from 0.01mm to 0.3mm in thickness.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~{8}~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein
[[the]] said rupture member ~~[(11)]~~ is provided so as to be different in strength depending on
an opening diameter of the gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ and [[the]] a strength level of the
rupture member ~~[(11)]~~ is increased corresponding with a decrease in diameter of the gas
discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~{9}~~ A gas generator according to Claim 6, wherein
with ~~regard~~ respect to [[the]] a strength level of [[the]] said rupture member ~~[(11) each of]~~
which is attached to each of a plurality of gas discharge openings ~~(8a, 8b)~~ having a different
opening diameter, the strength level of the rupture member is ~~adjusted~~ adjustable [[in]] such
[[a way]] that $T1/T2 = D2/D1$ and is in the range of from 2 to 8 ~~on the assumption of when~~
 $T1/T2 = D2/D1$,

[[where]] wherein

T1 is [[the]] a strength of [[the]] value said rupture member which is attached to a gas
discharge opening having [[a small]] said first opening diameter D1,

T2 is [[the]] a strength of [[the]] value said rupture member which is attached to a gas
discharge opening having [[a large]] said second opening diameter D2.